

CATHOLIC • ACTION •

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APRIL, 1939



"... that Almighty God may continue to bless this Nation, that its citizens may be happy and prosperous and that the influence of the United States may always be exercised for the promotion of peace among peoples"—His Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

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NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

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FACTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

∴: What It Is — What It Does ∴:

"This organization (the N. C. W. C.) is not only useful, but necessary. . . . We praise all who in any way cooperate in this great work."—POPE PIUS XI.

The National Catholic Welfare Conference was organized in September, 1919.

The N. C. W. C. is a common agency acting under the authority of the bishops to promote the welfare of the Catholics of the country.

It has for its incorporated purposes "unifying, coordinating and organizing the Catholic people of the United States in works of education, social welfare, immigrant aid and other activities."

It comprises the following departments and bureaus:

EXECUTIVE—Bureaus maintained: *Immigration, Youth, National Center Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Catholic Information, Publications, Business and Auditing, and CATHOLIC ACTION, official organ, N. C. W. C.*

EDUCATION—Divisions: *Statistics and Information, Teachers' Registration, Library.*

PRESS—Serves the Catholic press in the United States and abroad with regular news, features, editorial and pictorial services.

SOCIAL ACTION—Covers the fields of *Industrial Relations, International Affairs, Civic Education, Social Welfare, Family Life and Rural Life.*

LEGAL—Serves as a clearing house of information on federal, state and local legislation.

LAY ORGANIZATIONS—Includes the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women, which maintain at N. C. W. C. headquarters permanent representations in the interests of the Catholic laity. These councils function through some 3,500 affiliated societies—national, state, diocesan, district, local and parish; also through units of the councils in many of the dioceses.

CATHOLIC ACTION STUDY—Devoted to research and reports as to pronouncements, methods, programs and achievements in the work of Catholic Action at home and abroad.

The N. C. C. M. maintains at its national headquarters a *Catholic Evidence Bureau*, sponsors a weekly nation-wide radio *Catholic Hour* over the network of the National Broadcasting Company, and conducts a Catholic Radio Bureau.

The N. C. C. W. maintains in Washington, D. C., the *National Catholic School of Social Service*.

The Conference is conducted by an administrative board composed of ten archbishops and bishops aided by seven assistant bishops.

Each department of the N. C. W. C. is administered by an episcopal chairman.

Through the general secretary, chief executive officer of the Conference, the reports of the departments and information on the general work of the headquarters' staff are sent regularly to the members of the administrative board.

The administrative bishops of the Conference report annually upon their work to the Holy See.

Annually at the general meeting of the bishops, detailed reports are submitted by the administrative bishops of the Conference and authorization secured for the work of the coming year.

No official action is taken by any N. C. W. C. department without authorization of its episcopal chairman.

No official action is taken in the name of the whole Conference without authorization and approval of the administrative board.

It is not the policy of the N. C. W. C. to create new organizations.

It helps, unifies, and leaves to their own fields those that already exist.

It aims to defend and to advance the welfare both of the Catholic Church and of our beloved Country.

It seeks to inform the life of America of right fundamental principles of religion and morality.

It is a central clearing house of information regarding activities of Catholic men and women.

All that are helped may play their part in promoting the good work and in maintaining the common agency, the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

CATHOLIC ACTION records monthly the work of the Conference and its affiliated organizations. It presents our common needs and opportunities. Its special articles are helpful to every Catholic organization and individual.

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CATHOLIC ACTION

"CATHOLIC ACTION consists not merely of the pursuit of personal Christian perfection, which is however before all others its first and greatest end, but it also consists of a true apostolate in which Catholics of every social class participate, coming thus to be united in thought and action around those centers of sound doctrine and multiple social activity, legitimately constituted and, as a result, aided and sustained by the authority of the bishops."

—Pope Pius XI.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

VOL. XXI, No. 4



APRIL, 1939

OUR COMMON CATHOLIC INTERESTS

Entire Christian World Rejoices in Elevation of Cardinal Pacelli to Throne of Peter

NOT only to the 350 millions of Catholics throughout the world but to other millions of Christians, the selection of His Eminence, Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, as the 261st successor of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles and first Supreme Pontiff of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, was an event of stirring interest and universal rejoicing. Choosing the name of his revered predecessor, the newly-elected Pontiff appeared, following his coronation as Pope Pius XII, to bless the half million persons physically present in the plaza of St. Peter's Basilica and uncounted other millions present in spirit and in prayer throughout the Universe.

* * * * *

AS THE accompanying account and other articles appearing in this issue testify, the elevation of Pope Pius XII was received with supreme satisfaction and rejoicing everywhere. This was particularly true of the citizens of the United States, who, as stated in a feature article in this issue, had come to "know" the newly-elected Pontiff as a result of his memorable visit to this country in 1936. Especially pleasing also to Americans was the radio-transmitted message of Pope Pius XII expressing his "first wish" as he mounted the Throne of St. Peter for "peace for all the world."

* * * * *

TO THIS great Pontiff CATHOLIC ACTION humbly dedicates this April issue of the Official Organ of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the headquarters of which he visited during his visit to the United States in 1936 and to which he subsequently sent a specially autographed photograph reading: "To all at the headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Conference with a blessing for them and their work."

May this issue convey to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, an expression of the profound loyalty and devotion of the Conference and every member of its staff together with their most earnest prayers for the success of his pontificate.

THE Conclave from which His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, came forth as the two hundred and sixty-first successor of St. Peter unquestionably will stand as one of the most remarkable in Papal history. There are numerous reasons why Americans especially will recall it, and the Coronation following, with peculiar interest.

All the members of the Sacred College of Cardinals

took part in the Conclave, the largest number to be present since the election of Pope Leo XIII in 1878. Making a selection in less than 24 hours, the Conclave was one of the shortest on record, and manifested strikingly to a confused and troubled world the solidarity and unity of the Catholic Church. For the first time, the magic facilities of radio were employed to make the choice of the Conclave known to the world at

the same time it was announced in St. Peter's Square. Countless millions around the globe heard at the same instant "We have a Pope," and that Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli was the new Pontiff under the name of Pius XII.

Not only were all the American Cardinals able to take part in the recent Conclave—a thing never before possible—but one of the American Princes of the Church, His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, was a prominent official of the Conclave, as Dean of the Cardinal Priests. He was one of those who approached Cardinal Pacelli following his election and asked if he accepted the office.

THE Coronation of Pope Pius XII was a scene unforgettablely splendid and impressive. His Holiness himself directed that the ceremony take place on the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square, instead of within the Basilica, so that as many as possible might witness it. While the whole world listened over the radio, a half-million persons, it was estimated, were present physically when Pope Pius XII was crowned.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose personal message of greetings to the newly elected Pontiff is printed herewith, sent Joseph P. Kennedy, United States Ambassador to London, to be his personal representative at the Coronation.

Receiving His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein, Archbishop of Chicago, in private audience just before his departure from Rome, Pope Pius XII charged the distinguished American Cardinal to repeat personally to President Roosevelt the Sovereign Pontiff's expression of his highest appreciation and gratitude.

His Excellency, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, issued the particularly impressive statement appearing herein when word of the new Pontiff's election was flashed to the world.

THE three American Cardinals, interviewed in Rome at the finish of the Conclave, expressed the highest satisfaction in the election of Cardinal Pacelli. His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, pointed out that Pope Pius XII is "gentleness personified;" that he was always regarded as "a most outstanding ecclesiastic," and that from the time he was a young man he was considered "the future hope of the Church."

The Archbishops and Bishops of the United States have been unreserved in their praise of the choice made

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OF GREETING TO POPE PIUS XII

THE following message of personal greeting and felicitation was sent to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt immediately upon the Chief Executive's return from a cruise with the United States Fleet:

"It is with true happiness that I learned of your selection as Supreme Pontiff. Recalling with pleasure our meeting on the occasion of your recent visit to the United States, I wish to take this occasion to send you a personal message of felicitation and good wishes.

"Roosevelt."

by the Sacred College of Cardinals. They unhesitatingly and unanimously expressed themselves as "delighted," "supremely happy," "thrilled" and "thankful to Almighty God." Following announcement of the election *Te Deums* were sung in every cathedral church as well as in thousands of parish churches throughout the United States.

The Catholic clergy and laity, like their Bishops, have shown everywhere the greatest happiness in the election of Pope Pius XII. The deep appreciation which all have of the Holy Father's accomplishments as Papal Nuncio and as Cardinal, has been greatly increased by the fact that many of the clergy and laity had the good fortune to see His Holiness when he visited the United States two and a half years ago.

One of the first messages to be received in the United States on behalf of the new Pontiff was from Monsignor Giovanni Battista Montini, Substitute Secretary of State, replying to felicitations from the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, and reading as follows:

"With paternal gratitude, the August Pontiff imparts special Apostolic Blessing to Your Excellency, the staff of the Delegation, the Hierarchy and all the faithful in pledge of copious heavenly favors."

POPE PIUS XII imparted "with paternal affection" his blessing on the staff of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. A radiogram from Monsignor Montini conveyed the blessing in the following words:

"Holy Father acknowledges most gratefully touching homage staff National Catholic Welfare Conference. With paternal affection imparts first apostolic blessing."

This was in response to the following cablegram which the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, general secretary of the N. C. W. C., dispatched to Monsignor Domenico Tardini, Secretary for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs:

"Humbly offer to His Holiness Pius XII the loyal homage and affectionate devotion of myself and all co-workers of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. May the Lord conserve our Supreme Pontiff and grant to the Church peace and prosperity throughout a long and fruitful Pontificate."

Apostolic Delegate's Tribute to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII

ATTENDING his personal knowledge of the very deep interest the new Sovereign Pontiff has in the spiritual welfare of America, the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, His Excellency, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, gave to representatives of the Press, following the election of Cardinal Pacelli to the Throne of Peter, the following statement:

"ON THE election of such a beloved Churchman as Cardinal Pacelli to the Throne of St. Peter, our first word must be one of prayerful gratitude to Divine Providence.

"From the first moment of his reign, Pius XII is able to envision the special necessities of the entire world in relation to his duties as Supreme Shepherd of the Church and Father of Christendom.

"AS SECRETARY OF STATE, the new Pontiff enjoyed the rare privilege of close association with Pius XI of holy memory. On several occasions he served the late Holy Father as personal legate to many nations. Because of his expert skill in many languages he gained an exceptionally intimate knowledge of the qualities, the worth, and the needs of many peoples. His reputation as a renowned scholar of theology and canon law is well known. His career in diplomacy has been brilliant. His priestly piety and paternal kindly manner, as well as the rare gifts of mind for which the new Pontiff is universally known, are evidences of a noble character fashioned by nature and divine grace. These precious endowments now become the heritage of the world.

"WE MIGHT say that Pius XI was in some way inspired when he allowed his beloved Secretary of State to visit this country in the fall of 1936. The new Pontiff, Pius XII, was so eager to learn personally as much as possible about the American people during the few weeks he remained here that his travelings to every section of the United States were done for the most part by airplane. Pius XII was enthusiastic about what he saw in this country and commented frequently on the great vitality of this nation. We recall his words of farewell in which he expressed his admiration for the people and institutions of the United States. He was impressed by the profusion and excellence of the parish churches and the educational and charitable organization of the Church here.

"Because of my position in the United States, I have been in daily contact with Pius XII in his capacity as Secretary of State and I know from his letters how very much he cared for and was interested in the spiritual welfare of the citizens of this nation.

"I KNOW that I may express to His Holiness the joy of the people of the United States in his election and the deep affection in which he is held here. I bespeak the prayers of the good people of the United States for his peace and happiness throughout a pontificate which, we trust in God's goodness, will enrich society with the enduring blessings of justice and charity."

IN response to greetings and pledges of loyalty, sent to Pope Pius XII by the National Council of Catholic Women and National Council of Catholic Men, the Acting Secretary of State sent the following messages to their respective presidents:

"Holy Father particularly pleased devoted homage. Imparts National Council of Catholic Women paternal blessing."

"Holy Father paternally grateful sends Catholic laymen first Apostolic blessing."

But Catholics are not the only ones in the United States who have expressed great pleasure in the election of the present Holy Father. Bishop William T. Manning of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York hailed the election of Cardinal Pacelli as providing "a noble and worthy successor to Pope Pius XI." Rabbi Herbert T. Goldstein, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said the news of Cardinal Pacelli's election "will be heralded as most welcome." Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, said the

choice of the Sacred College "is a matter of congratulation and satisfaction." Rabbi David De Sola said the Synagogue Council of America, of which he is president, sees in Pope Pius XII's election "an assurance that the noble religious tradition of the Catholic Church, so brilliantly exemplified by his beloved predecessor, Pope Pius XI, will be continued for the blessing not only of his Church but of all mankind."

PROTESTANT and Jewish lay leaders joined with their ministers and rabbis in expressing spontaneous and enthusiastic happiness in the elevation of Cardinal Pacelli to the Papacy. From one end of the United States to the other, the secular press has been lavish in its praise of the new Pontiff, pointing to him as one paper—the *New York Times*—expresses it, as "the ally of Western democracy in upholding the claims of the human personality and our human brotherhood against a world of enemies." Thus it went—in every section of the country. Unhesitatingly, even ardently, the secular press hailed the new

Pontiff as the hope of a world sorely tried and greatly bewildered.

That it shattered still another precedent was but typical of the manner and speed with which Pope Pius XII gave his "first paternal word" to the world. It was less than 24 hours after the Sacred College, in the swift election, had chosen him Supreme Pontiff, that His Holiness employed the facilities of the radio to say that peace for all the world was the "first wish" rising from his heart as he ascended the Chair of Peter.

Thanks to the radio, Americans were able to be "ear-witnesses" to the announcement of Pope Pius XII's election and his Coronation. Millions of residents of the United States were listening when commentators for all the major American broadcasting chains, stationed at vantage points in St. Peter's Square, flashed to the world the word, first, that a new Pontiff had been elected, and then that Cardinal Pacelli was the choice. Millions were also listening when the ceremonies of the Coronation were brought across the ocean by radio. Considerable preparations were made in some quarters, where large bodies of Catholics gathered together to listen to the Coronation.

It was one of the first acts of Pope Pius XII following his election to impart his blessing to all America.

When the announcement of the votes on the third ballot showed the election of the former Cardinal Secretary of State, and the Cardinal had signified his willingness to accept the office—because he felt it was the divine will that he take up this heavy burden—the Cardinals passed before him to make their first obedience. When it came Cardinal O'Connell's turn, the Archbishop of Boston asked the newly elected Pontiff to give his blessing to his See and to all America. The Holy Father replied: "With all my heart I bless them,

and will always pray for them. They were all so kind to Us when We visited them."

Among the many American organizations and personages who were quick to assure His Holiness of its filial attachment was the Catholic Press Association of the United States, through its President Charles H. Ridder, publisher of *The Catholic News* of New York.

Pope Pius XII's keen appreciation of the importance of the press in general, and his earnest desire to encourage and further the work of the Catholic Press in particular, were already matters of record when His Holiness ascended the Chair of Peter. Addressing some 450 correspondents at the National Press Club, Washington, D. C., in 1936, the then Cardinal Pacelli said journalists have a "great responsibility," in reporting facts and inspiring public opinion, to work "for the salvation of humanity and to elevate it towards its greatest, its highest destiny."

Addressing the International Congress of the Catholic Press held in Rome earlier in 1936, when he spoke in Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, English and Latin, the then Cardinal Secretary of State called upon the Congress to ratify a common program for Catholic journalists, emphasizing the power and necessity of union. At this time the now Holy Father lauded the Catholic Press of the United States, calling it "unflagging in its efforts to excel."

Holding the highest hope for peace, progress and security—not only of the Catholic Church but of the world in general—the Pontificate of His Holiness Pope Pius XII is at its very beginning a distinctive one.

Members of the N. C. W. C. family will join with Catholics everywhere in the prayer that Pope Pius XII may have a fruitful pontificate and that, under his inspiration and guidance, peace and justice may reign in ever-increasing measure throughout the world.

CALENDAR OF SCHEDULED CATHOLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

April, 1939

- 1—MIDDLE ATLANTIC STUDENT PEACE FEDERATION, New Rochelle, N. Y.
- 10-11—CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE—Annual conference, Washington, D. C.
- 11—CATHOLIC ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, Washington, D. C.
- 11-14—CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION—Annual national conference, Washington, D. C.
- 12—STUDENT PEACE FEDERATIONS—Annual conference, Washington, D. C.
- 12-13—REGIONAL CATECHETICAL CONGRESS OF THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE, St. Paul, Minn.
- 12-14—NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION—National convention, Washington, D. C.
- 21-23—REGIONAL CATECHETICAL CONGRESS OF THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE, Notre Dame, Ind.
- 24-25—GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE AND SILVER EPISCOPAL JUBILEE OF THE MOST REV. HENRY ALTHOFF, BISHOP OF BELLEVILLE, Belleville, Ill.

- 27-29—CATECHETICAL CONGRESS OF THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE FOR THE DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE, La Crosse, Wis.
- 27-29—CATECHETICAL CONGRESS OF THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS, New Orleans, La.

May, 1939

- 9-11—FIRST CENTENNIAL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, Portland, Oreg.
- 16-17—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN—regional conference, Dubuque, Iowa.
- 19-21—DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA—state convention, Illinois.
- 21-22—COLORADO STATE COUNCIL, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—thirty-eighth annual convention, Gunnison, Colo.
- 28-June 3—GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SESQUICENTENNIAL, Washington, D. C.

NOTE: Officials of national and state organizations of Catholic men and women are requested to advise N.C.W.C. headquarters of the dates of their respective meetings. These will be listed in future issues.



"Peace:" First Wish Of Pope Pius XII

"PEACE for all the world!" was the first wish rising from the heart of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, as he mounted the throne of Peter following his coronation as the two hundred sixty-second pope. In less than twenty-four hours following his election, the Sovereign Pontiff, utilizing the magic facilities of the radio, gave his "first paternal word" to the world.

The Sovereign Pontiff blessed "all our children scattered everywhere throughout the world," and reserved a special blessing for "those who suffer in poverty or in pain." He told "all those outside the Church" that the Pope sends up to God his "best and greatest prayer" for them.

Pope Pius XII directed the attention of men to that peace—based on charity and justice—for which his predecessor had labored, prayed, and offered his life to God, and offered himself unstintingly in the combat that must be waged against "the enormous evils afflicting the world." "Use us," His Holiness urged all those who heard him.

Pope Pius XII prayed God to "make fruitful this our wish," so that it might be as "a messenger of holy consolation for all the world." He expressed confidence that his spiritual children and brothers would not let his wish be in vain. "After the Grace of God, it is in your good will that our soul so greatly trusts," he said. Pope Pius XII spoke as follows:

"WHILE the most profound emotion pervades Our soul and We feel bewildered before the tremendous responsibility to which Divine Providence, in its inscrutable designs, has wished to call Us, We feel the need to reach all with Our thought, Our own first paternal word.

"Above all, and with particular affection, We offer Our paternal embrace to Our beloved Cardinals, whose piety, virtues and eminent gifts of soul We have known from long experience.

"Then We greet with special benevolence Our venerable brothers of the Episcopate. At the same time We bless the priests, Religious and nuns; those who work in the Missions for the diffusion of the Kingdom of Christ; those who in Catholic Action, under the guidance of their Bishops, collaborate in the hierarchical apostolate, and, finally, all Our children scattered everywhere throughout the world, especially those who suffer in poverty or in pain.

"May the copious, beneficent and choicest blessings of Heaven descend upon each and every one.

"BUT in this solemn moment Our thought runs also to all those outside the Church to whom it will be pleasing to know that the Pope raises for them to God his best and greatest prayer and wishes for every good.

"To this Our paternal message We will add a hope and invitation to peace. We speak of that peace which Our predecessor of blessed memory urged so insistently upon men, for which he invoked such ardent prayers, and for which he made to God a spontaneous offer of his life. We speak of that peace which is the sublime gift of heaven, the desire of all good souls, and the fruit of charity and justice.

"We invited all to the peace of a tranquil conscience in friendship with God, to the peace of families united and harmonized by much love of Christ, and, finally, to a peace between nations through fraternal help, reciprocal and loving collaboration, and cordial understanding for the superior interests of the great human family under the eyes and protection of Divine Providence.

* * *

"IN these fearsome and difficult hours, while so many difficulties seem to oppose the attainment of that peace which is the most profound aspiration of all hearts, We raise to Our Lord a special prayer for all those who are entrusted with the highest honors and the heaviest burden of guiding their peoples in ways of prosperity and progress.

"Here, beloved Cardinals, venerable brethren, and beloved children is the first wish overflowing from the palpitating fatherliness with which God has enkindled Our heart.

"Before Us is a vision of the enormous evils afflicting the world, for the correction of which may Our Blessed Lord send help to Us, unarmed but confident. With St. Paul, we repeat: 'Capite Nos' (Use Us). We are sure that you Our children, Our brothers, will not render this Our wish in vain. After the Grace of God, it is in your good will that Our soul so greatly trusts.

* * *

"MAY Christ Our Lord, of Whose fullness we have all received, make fruitful this Our wish, making it a message of holy consolation for all the world, and give efficacy to the blessing which, in the name of God, We now impart with all Our heart."



ALL AMERICA REJOICES in ELECTION of POPE PIUS XII

CITIZENS of the Americas feel, as the writer of this article states, that they KNOW the present Pontiff who is the first Pope ever to have visited both North and South America. Particularly is that feeling evident in the United States where Catholics and non-Catholics alike had the opportunity in 1936, upon his history-making visit to this country, of meeting, seeing and reading about this great prelate who now occupies the Chair of Peter. Everywhere in the United States there was an enthusiastic response to and appreciation of the democratic dignity of the then Papal Secretary of State. Evidence that the appreciation was truly mutual is revealed in the words of the then Cardinal Pacelli quoted in the insert on the following page.

The writer of the present article, a member of the staff of the N. C. W. C. Press Department, "covered" to a large extent the visit of Pope Pius XII to the United States and to him CATHOLIC ACTION is especially grateful for the accompanying interesting and revealing article.

By Henry C. Flynn

EXPLANATION of the remarkable surge of joy that swept over this country when announcement came that His Eminence Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli had been elected successor of Pope Pius XI is to be had in three words: "We know him." That sounds rather intimate, but thousands of Americans—Catholic and non-Catholic—will attest that to "know" the present Holy Father, even ever so slightly, is to reverence him and to respect him.

Any newspaperman knows the election of a Pope is a big story. But here was a big story with that ever-to-be-sought-for personal touch. For the first time in history, here was a Pope we Americans had seen, had heard—some of us had actually *touched*. That sort of thing makes big news bigger.

This is supposed to be a sort of grouping of recollections of the precedent-shattering visit of the then Papal Secretary of State to the United States in the early fall of 1936. But now that he is our Supreme Pontiff, our Holy Father, there is another angle to the story that must be made the "lead." That is the utterly unparalleled interest taken by "secular" newspapermen in the Conclave at Vatican City and their widely-expressed "approval" of the choice of the Sacred College.

NEWS workers on the great metropolitan dailies cannot fairly be written down as an utterly godless crew; neither are they, in the aggregate, what might be termed spiritual. For reason, or for lack of it, they do not take too kindly to "churchmen." Why, then, their seemingly unanimous enthusiasm over the choice of a man—any man—to be "Pope of Rome?" The answer is to be found in the man.

Most readers will remember that when the present Pope paid his memorable, breath-taking visit to Washington, he was a luncheon guest at the National Press Club and that he addressed a capacity crowd of Washington correspondents and other news writers in the club's auditorium. He was a celebrity, but they had heard lots of celebrities—kings, presidents, prince premiers, empire builders and statesmen who had had their empires yanked out from under them. But this man was different. And because he was different, he was "news." And because he was "news," the memory of him lingered. And because of that memory, his election as Pope became the biggest kind of big news.

IT WAS the extreme good fortune of the writer to be assigned to "cover" the arrival of Cardinal Pacelli in this country and the first few days he spent in New York. When he arrived in Washington, I was one of those who reported every event of his stay in the Nation's Capital.

From the day in October when the Conte di Savoia made her way into New York Harbor and docked at her North River pier to that other day, almost a month later, when he sailed from our shores, he was ever dignified but never forbidding. The exacting schedule he set for himself left him unruffled. He seemed always to be—the word is "serene."

Some glimpses: There was the time aboard the "Conte." Assisted by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, he had passed out mimeographed "statements for the press" to several score of clamoring reporters. Acceding to the pleas of a battery of camera men, he was proceeding along a companion-way to the

bamboo deck" to be photographed when an enterprising youth, dangling from the rigging to get a difficult angle shot," yelled to him: "Hey... Mr... Mr. Pope, look this way, please." The Cardinal turned with a rather startled smile. And—when the camera clicked—he laughed out loud. That prophet should not be without some sort of honor.

WHEN, there was the incident at Mount Vernon on the lawn that slopes down from the colonial residence of the Father of Our Country to the Potomac. Tourists swarmed about him as he made his appearance. Catholics among them had prayer books and rosaries to be blessed. Honeymooning couples asked and received a gracious blessing. The last of these had obvious special characteristics. A reporter lagged behind and asked the bride: "You're Jewish, aren't you?" "Sure," she replied, "but it won't hurt." At his expressed wish, the Cardinal's party stopped at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, where the little children in the care of the Madames were presented. His Eminence spoke to them, lovingly, but first he asked the newspaper men to "leave this out of the story."

To sketch the highlights of the Cardinal's sojourn in the United States is not an easy task; it was nearly impossible to do in a few highlights.

First there was his visit, immediately upon arrival in New York, at St. Patrick's Cathedral. With the Cardinal Hayes, he went to the Lady Chapel, where the two Princes of the Church knelt in prayer. His first journey out of New York was to Boston, where he was greeted by His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell. Here, as in every one of our cities which he visited, he was welcomed also by the Ordinaries of neighboring dioceses, and he addressed assemblies of the clergy, seminarians, college students and school children.

A stop en route to Boston had been made at Hartford, where the Cardinal was greeted by the Most Rev. Maurice F. McAuliffe.

On his way to Washington, a week later, the future Pope stopped first in Philadelphia to visit with His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty. In Independence Hall, at the same desk at which the American patriots had signed the Declaration of Independence, he affixed his signature to the special register reserved for distinguished guests.

By train, the journey continued to Baltimore and he visited with the Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, and then

POPE PIUS XII'S PRAYER FOR AMERICA

UPON leaving the United States, following his memorable visit in 1936, Pope Pius XII, then Cardinal Secretary of State, said:

"I am leaving America with gratitude toward all with whom I have come in contact and with prayer that Almighty God may continue to bless this great nation, that its citizens may be happy and prosperous, and that the influence of the United States may always be exerted for the promotion of peace among peoples."

on to Washington, which was reached after dark. The chauffeur told reporters he had driven fast—sometimes 90 miles an hour. The Cardinal, he said, seemed to like it.

To Washington, Cardinal Pacelli brought a message of peace; peace through justice. This was the theme

of all his major addresses and other public expressions.

In a stay of less than 24 hours, after his arrival at the Apostolic Delegation at 9 p. m. on October 21, 1936, he fulfilled a program that few men in public life would have attempted. Throughout, he remained ever unruffled. His smile was frequent; and dozens of times he turned aside to be photographed, to reply to questions from the press, to impart his blessing to all who sought it.

After celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Apostolic Delegation the morning after his arrival, he went to the Catholic University of America, where more than 4,000 persons assembled in the gymnasium to hear his address. Here let it be remarked that at every educational institution he visited he granted the student body a holiday.

THE next stop was at the Library of Congress and those who accompanied the distinguished visitor were accorded the rare privilege of being admitted to sections seldom opened to inspection. Next, a visit was paid to the headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. There he greeted personally each member of the staff and to all gave his blessing as well as a blessing upon the work in which they were engaged.

The Cardinal then spoke at the luncheon at the National Press Club. It was the only address he made in this country to an audience under other than Catholic auspices.

Followed the motor trip to Mount Vernon, where he laid a wreath on the tomb of George Washington, and then a swift return to Georgetown University, where he addressed the faculty and student body and received the degree of Doctor of Canon and Civil Law.

Another incident, one the Holy Father will long remember, occurred at Georgetown. A student had read an address of welcome in Latin and was leaving the stage when the Rev. Dr. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., beckoned and whispered. The student returned to the center and called upon his mates to "give the Cardinal a Hoya." As the stirring "Hoya, Hoya, Saxa!" was thundered, His Eminence stood, first somewhat startled, then obviously pleased. Apparently, he sensed that here was a very special honor. Linguist

that he is, it is to be doubted that he understood.

Returning to New York, the Cardinal departed four days later on an air journey that was to take him to the Pacific Coast and return.

The first stop was made in Cleveland for a visit with the Most Rev. Joseph Schrembs. Next the University of Notre Dame, where the degree Doctor of Letters was conferred upon him.

In Chicago, His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein was at the flying field to greet Cardinal Pacelli and to have him as his guest over night. The next day's flight took the Cardinal and his party to St. Paul for another over-night stop as the guest of the Most Rev. John Gregory Murray.

IN San Francisco, he was received by the Most Rev. John J. Mitty and while there blessed the great San Francisco-Oakland bridge. Continuing to Los Angeles, he was the guest there of the Most Rev. John J. Cantwell. Other stops, returning eastward, were made in Kansas City, St. Louis and Cincinnati. Stops also were made in those cities where the plane refueled.

N. C. C. M. Arranges Nation Wide Rebroadcast of "Living God" Drama

AN UNUSUAL series of radio programs in commemoration of the events of the first Holy Week will be presented by the National Council of Catholic Men in co-operation with the National Broadcasting Company and associated stations, beginning on Tuesday, April 4, and continuing through Holy Saturday, April 8, 1939. This will consist of a reenactment of the radio drama, *The Living God*, first presented to an American audience last Holy Week and repeated now by request.

The series will be carried by at least 61 stations (more may be added) in 33 States, the District of Columbia and Canada. The programs will be carried by most stations at 3 o'clock coast time, 4 o'clock mountain time, 5 o'clock central time, and 6 o'clock eastern time, although a few stations will carry them at irregular later hours.

A professional volunteer cast has been assembled in Hollywood by the well-known Catholic actor, Pedro de Cordoba, whose portrayal of the Voice of Jesus last year evoked the highest praise because of its extraordinary combination of reverence and strength. The cast is headed by Mr. de Cordoba himself, and by Walter Connolly, prominent motion picture star, and Mary Carr, whose portrayal of the old woman in the silent film, *Over the Hill* endeared her to millions of movie-goers of a few years ago.

THE dramatizations will present a roving radio reporter, who has lost his faith, asking passersby on the streets of New York, on Palm Sunday, the question, "Who is Christ?" He meets an old palm vendor (the "Old Woman")

NOTABLE "FIRSTS" IN CHOICE OF POPE PIUS XII RECORDED BY N. C. W. C. NEWS SERVICE

WHEN, within 24 hours of his election as Supreme Pontiff, Pope Pius XII utilized the radio to send his first paternal message throughout the world, it served to recall a number of other history-making facts connected with his election.

Pope Pius XII is the first Pope: Whose election was announced to the world by radio; To have visited the United States; To have visited both North and South America; To have visited all the American Cardinals in their own country, and in their own Sees; to have received honorary degrees from four American universities; Ever to fly; To have been the guest of a President of the United States; to ascend the throne of St. Peter already possessing the Collar of the Annunziata, a decoration which makes the recipient a cousin of the King of Italy; First Roman to be elected Pope since Innocent XIII (1721-1724); First Cardinal Secretary of State to be elected Pope since 1667, when Cardinal Rospigliosi was elected and became Pope Clement IX; First Pope elected since the settlement of the so-called Roman Question; First Pope to have received a personal representative of the President of the United States at the time of coronation.

In each, he was greeted by dignitaries of Church and State and by throngs of people. St. Louis University conferred the degree Doctor of Science.

Back in New York City Cardinal Pacelli received another honorary degree—the fourth from an American Catholic institution of higher learning. This time it was the degree Doctor of Laws from Fordham University.

There was one more notable event and it occurred on the eve of his departure from this country. On November 5, Cardinal Pacelli was the luncheon guest of President Roosevelt at the Chief Executive's home at Hyde Park.

Afterward, he said to members of the press as his train left Poughkeepsie: "I was very anxious to meet the President. And I am happy to have had the opportunity of seeing and congratulating him."

When Cardinal Pacelli, upon leaving America, expressed his gratitude to all with whom he had come in contact there was a complete reciprocation of feeling.

Isn't that the explanation of that "surge of joy" mentioned at the outset of this writing? Americans know this Pope.

who, in response to the question, directs him into a nearby church. There, through the eyes of faith—the Old Woman's eyes—he sees. He feels himself miraculously transported in time and space, to Jerusalem, where he witnesses Our Lord's triumphal entry into that ancient city.

With his portable microphone he is able to catch the voice of Christ, speaking the words recorded of Him in the Gospels; and in the ensuing episodes, wherein he gives an eyewitness account of the Last Supper, the Betrayal, the Trial, the Scourging and Crowning with Thorns, the Crucifixion, the events attendant upon the Resurrection, the Appearance on the Road to Emmaus—just as a modern radio commentator would do it today—he is enabled also to pick up the voices of the Apostles, Mary Magdalene, Pontius Pilate, the Two Thieves, and all the other important participants in those events that constituted the greatest drama ever beheld by man. This highly imaginative device—describing as seen with human eyes what could only be seen with the eyes of faith—lends a freshness and vividness to these dramatic scriptural scenes equalled only in Oberammergau.

THE Reporter finally feels himself whirled back through space and time to a humble church in New York, where he hears the priest pronouncing the words of Consecration. Fully appreciating for the first time, the identity between this scene and what he had witnessed at the Last Supper, the announcer's faith is restored, and the series ends on a happy note appropriate to Easter.

THE DIVINE LAW on FAMILY LIFE

Some Excerpts from an Address Delivered
by His Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate
to the United States at the Recent National
Conference on Christian Marriage.

IN THE following are presented several excerpts from the telling address on "The Divine Law on Family Life,"¹ delivered by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, at the National Conference on Christian Marriage in Washington, D. C., Sunday, March 19, 1939. The Marriage Conference was held under the auspices of the Catholic Conference on Family Life and the School of Social Science of the Catholic University of America. In addition it was sponsored by a group of Catholic agencies and educational institutions selected from throughout different parts of the country. Sessions were held on the Catholic University grounds and extended over a period of two days. In his address at the opening session His Excellency, Archbishop Cicognani, referred to the fact that the day on which he spoke was the Feast of St. Joseph, and stated, "May the great Saint protect these gatherings and inspire all of you with firm resolutions for an apostolate on behalf of the sanctity of the family."

By His Excellency, Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani

THE family, so sadly perturbed in our times, cannot be brought back to its true dignity, except through those laws that the Church has received from its Divine Founder . . . whereby we shall also obtain the desired improvement of society; because, just as from a withering trunk there spring even worse branches and bad fruit, so when corruption contaminates families, it also infects the individual citizens. On the contrary, when the family is ordered to a Christian life, the single members will gradually learn to love religion and piety, to abhor false doctrines, to practice virtue, to respect superiors and to restrain egoistic sentiments which so profoundly degrade human nature" (Leo XIII Enc. "Inscrutabili," April 21, 1878). . . .

Deviations From Nature

"We must first propose to ourselves a question of principle: Is it rational and possible morally to trace new paths for institutions such as marriage and the family? Both of them originate from God, and both of them form the basis of all humanity. Now that which is the basis for all humanity, cannot but come from nature, that is from God, nor is it lawful for man, either individually or when constituted in human authority, to change its course. Nor can this be done without changing the substance and essence of the institutions. It is a well known principle that the natural law is the basis of all human legislation. Civil society must have it as a foundation, because it is 'the eternal law itself impressed in the rational creature.' Laws, therefore, that are in opposition to or in discord with it, would no longer bring order, but disorder and the disintegration of society, because there can be no genuine legislation that is contrary to the natural law.

"Marriage and family not only have their entire foundation in the natural law, but in respect to society

they may be compared to the natural law itself. Both of them tend to the universal end of humanity and society, they come from the universal cause, from God and from His Divine Wisdom. God ordered them for man, that the design of creation might be fulfilled; the family came from the mind of God Who gave laws to the first couple with the explicit mission of multiplying, of living in an indissoluble bond, and of educating its offspring; by Him were determined both the constitution of the family and its fundamental prerogatives. It is against nature therefore when the will of man, economic factors, or temporary and changing motives attempt to overturn and disorganize these great works of the Creator.

Only Christianity Gives Unity and Perfection

"The unity of the family has been broken—that unity which is not only a natural and externally visible bond, but which is specially intimate, spiritual, essentially sacred and religious, and most of all supernatural. Family unity is unity of life for parents and children. Christianity by the revelation of the Divine Master has clearly shown to man how he must attain his last end. His life, his thoughts and actions must be directed to this end with a forceful unity on the lofty planes of grace to which man has been elevated by the Redeemer. The life of man has been rendered, in some measure, divine by the Founder of Christianity and Author of the Sacraments, and matrimony is 'a great Sacrament: in Christ and in the Church' (Ephesians, V, 32). Outside of this supernatural life one wanders between errors and darkness; other substitutes may be sought, such as civic virtues, stoicism, traditions, honor, personal prestige; but these things, even when taken together, remain insufficient and defective, and soon we sadly realize that the ways and means of human perfection have been lost. There is a lack of that spiritual unity which Christianity alone can indicate and give in fullness and entirety. . . .

(Turn to page 17)

¹ The complete text of address will appear in the May issue of *The Catholic Family Monthly*.

MONTH *by* MONTH

CATHOLIC ACTION

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

"We have grouped together, under the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the various agencies by which the cause of religion is furthered. Each of these, continuing its own special work in its chosen field, will now derive additional support through general cooperation."

—From the 1919 Pastoral Letter of the Archbishops and Bishops of the U. S.

N. C. W. C. Administrative Board

MOST REV. EDWARD MOONEY, Archbishop of Detroit, chairman of the Administrative Board and episcopal chairman of the Executive Department; **MOST REV. JOHN B. PETERSON**, Bishop of Manchester, vice chairman of the Administrative Board and episcopal chairman of the Department of Education; **MOST REV. JOHN A. DUFFY**, Bishop of Buffalo, secretary of the Administrative Board; **MOST REV. FRANCIS C. KELLEY**, Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, treasurer of the Administrative Board; **MOST REV. SAMUEL A. STRITCH**, Archbishop of Milwaukee, episcopal chairman, Department of Catholic Action Study; **MOST REV. HUGH C. BOYLE**, Bishop of Pittsburgh, episcopal chairman of the Legal Department; **MOST REV. JOSEPH F. RUMMEL**, Archbishop of New Orleans, episcopal chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations; **MOST REV. EDWIN V. O'HARA**, Bishop of Great Falls and episcopal chairman of the Social Action Department; **MOST REV. MARK GANNON**, Bishop of Erie, episcopal chairman of the Press Department; **MOST REV. JOHN GREGORY MURRAY**, Archbishop of St. Paul.

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RIGHT REV. MSGR. MICHAEL J. READY
General Secretary

CHARLES A. McMAHON
Editor

Opinions expressed in articles published in this magazine are to be regarded as those of the respective contributors. They do not necessarily carry with them the formal approval of the Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Archbishop Rummel's Refugee Committee Initiates Bureau to Aid Relief Program

THE Bishops' Committee for Catholic Refugees of which the Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans is chairman, has announced the initiation of a speakers' bureau which will offer its services to schools, clubs, parish groups and similar organizations. It is prepared, it was announced, to offer lectures or informal discussions on the history and present condition of the Church in Germany, the situation of the German refugees and the problems involved in their resettlement, and the doctrinal and philosophic basis of the conflict between the Church and the totalitarian State.

The Committee, located at 123 Second Street, New York City, feels, it was stated, that the task of enlightenment should be an important phase of its work. The present situation in Germany can be traced to combined forces at work during the last few centuries, and an intensive educational program among Catholics should be one way of combating these influences and preventing the eruption of similar

destructive forces in this country, the announcement said.

The Committee invited application from volunteers, who will be trained in weekly classes to speak on these topics. It will also welcome invitations, at present confined to the New York City area, to speak before Catholic organizations.

Catholic Rural Life Conference Praised by Cardinal Pizzardo

COMMENDATION for the National Catholic Rural Life Conference has been received from His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Pizzardo, president of the Central Office of Catholic Action in Rome, by the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Great Falls and honorary president of the Conference in a letter reading as follows:

"It was with particular pleasure that I received and read the papers of the 15th annual convention of the 'National Catholic Rural Life Conference.'

"This splendid organization, of which Your Excellency is the Honorary President and the Right Reverend Monsignor Luigi Ligutti the effective President for this year, represents a truly Catholic attempt to assist the rural workers both materially and spiritually. The work which it has done to preserve and advance the Catholic faith in those rural districts where Catholics are few and there is little religious assistance is worthy of special praise.

"The numerous papers contained in the volume of the 15th convention afford a precious guide to the study of this branch of Catholic activity in your country and show clearly the intelligent and zealous work already in progress.

"I am happy to offer Your Excellency and all those who have cooperated with you in this great enterprise, my heartiest congratulations. I am sure that our Lord will bless and advance this work which has been begun in His name."

Progress of Clean Literature Crusade Reported in Sunday Visitor by Bishop Noll

AN ACCOUNT of developments in dioceses throughout the country in the campaign of the National Organization for Decent Literature is given by the Most Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, in a recent issue of *Our Sunday Visitor*. Bishop Noll is chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Obscene Literature.

"We glean from correspondence," Bishop Noll writes, "that publishers of salacious literature must be doing their best to have those in charge of magazine agencies to force newsstand operators to accept their periodicals, because we have heard of some dealers, desirous of cooperating, losing their right to sell any literature unless they accepted the bad with the good.

"We have previously noted that most druggists are quite willing to cooperate, that a national pharmacist magazine indorsed our drive and urged all druggists to cooperate with the men and women aiming at eliminating lewd publications.

"If after the first clean-up members of Vigilance Committees will keep in touch with dealers and see that the bad magazines will not get back, it would not take long for the publishers to either abandon the nefarious business or purge their publications of filth both in reading matter and advertising.

"It is generally agreed that this Crusade is one designed to promote both the interests of God and country, and to stimulate the practice of reading better things.

with the

N. C. W. C.

"In many places Protestants and Jews are cooperating beautifully with Catholics in the drive against lewd literature."

At a recent meeting of the Bishops' Committee on Obscene Literature, held in Chicago, a plan for the national organization for decent literature was made public. To date Bishop Noll has received word of such action from the ordinaries of 30 dioceses.

Archbishop Mooney, in Behalf of Bishops, Expresses Hope for Industrial Peace

IN A STATEMENT made public here in Washington on February 25, earnest hope that the plea of President Roosevelt for peace and union between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations will be successful, is expressed by the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, in his capacity as chairman of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

"It is greatly to be hoped," Archbishop Mooney says, "that the letter of President Roosevelt calling for peace and unity between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations will attain its ends."

"A year ago last November, the Administrative Board of Bishops of the National Catholic Welfare Conference stated that a settling of the differences between them was desirable for the well-being of workers, employes and the entire people and that continuance of the division 'can only mean increased suffering and hardship for workers themselves.' 'Unity between them is even more insistently needed today.'"

Bishops of Ogdensburg and Sioux Falls Die on Same Day, March 20, 1939

IT IS with deep regret that we chronicle the passing of two members of the American Hierarchy. The Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, died in Ogdensburg, N. Y., his see city, on March 20 at the age of 80. The Most Rev. Bernard Mahoney, Bishop of Sioux Falls, died on the same day at the age of 64, following an operation for goiter.

Bishop Conroy had been a priest for 58 years and episcopal head of the Ogdensburg Diocese since 1921, having served there as auxiliary bishop since 1912 when he was elevated to the episcopate. He was widely known for his great zeal and piety, his fruitful priestly labors, and his deep interest in the welfare of his people.

His episcopal silver jubilee in 1931 evoked many tributes among them one from the late Pope Pius XI, who, naming him assistant to the Pontifical Throne, praised his noteworthy accomplishments as priest and shepherd.

Bishop Mahoney, the third Ordinary to govern the See of Sioux Falls, was spiritual director of the North American College in Rome at the time he was elevated to the Episcopate, and his consecration took place in the Eternal City. Bishop Thomas M. A. Burke, of Albany, recognized the young student's unusual ability, and designated him to pursue courses at the North American College in Rome, where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1904.

Returning to the United States in 1905, Father Mahoney was appointed an assistant to the pastor of St. Peter's Church, Troy, where he served five years. At the end of his time he was recalled to the North American College to serve as spiritual director, and held that office until he was elevated to the Episcopate.

Appointment of Monsignor Mahoney as Bishop of Sioux

Falls was announced on May 22, 1922, and his consecration took place on June 29 of that year.

May the souls of these beloved prelates rest in peace.

Regional Conferences Point Way to National Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Convention

THE series of regional conferences projected for this year by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine was inaugurated last month in San Francisco at sessions attended by several members of the Hierarchy and delegates of three western states.

The conference opened with Pontifical Mass in venerable St. Mary's Cathedral here, celebrated by the Most Rev. John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco. The Most Rev. Robert J. Armstrong, Bishop of Sacramento, delivered the sermon.

Outlining the work of the conference, Archbishop Mitty said "fundamentally, the purpose of this movement is to teach the rights of God, and the relation of His rights to the rights of man."

"When the rights of God are violated—as in some of the world's totalitarian states today—then the rights of man inevitably suffer," he declared.

"Practice of the Christian Doctrine must be extended in public elementary and high schools, in colleges and supplementary vacation schools. Parents must not forget Christianity in their home teachings. And adults themselves must study and keep mindful of the Christian life."

The Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Great Falls and Chairman of the Episcopal Committee on the Confraternity, who presided over the general sessions asserted "the public schools have no commission to teach religion, but neither can they be hostile to religion." "We shall work on a movement to release periods when the pupils may have religious instruction," he added.

Other speakers were the Most Rev. Thomas K. Gorman, Bishop of Reno, the Rev. John E. Kuhn, of Cincinnati, National Director of the Confraternity, and Miss Miriam Marks, National Secretary of the Confraternity.

N. C. W. C. News Service Issued 156,000 Words on Events at Vatican

THAT the Catholic Press of the United States was in a position to report most completely and from a wide variety of viewpoints the death of Pope Pius XI and the election of Pope Pius XII, is demonstrated by the disclosure that the N. C. W. C. News Service sent out more than 156,000 words of news on these two events.

Exclusive of the coronation of Pope Pius XII and subsequent events, the N. C. W. C. News Service has sent out approximately 55,000 words in biographical sketches of the members of the Sacred College of Cardinals, some 9,000 words of Pope Pius XI's biography, some 8,000 words on the interregnum and the election of a new Pontiff, about 51,000 words on the death and funeral of Pope Pius XI and tributes to his work, more than 11,000 words on the Conclave to elect a successor to Pope Pius XI, as well as some 24,000 words on the election of Pope Pius XII and his initial acts.

In addition, the N. C. W. C. Picture Service made available a total of 52 newspaper columns of illustrations on the life of Pope Pius XI, the members of the Sacred College of Cardinals, the death and funeral of Pope Pius XI, the election of Pope Pius XII, and various events in the life of the new Pontiff, particularly his visit to the United States in 1936, when he was Cardinal Secretary of State.

(Turn to next page)

MONTH *by* MONTH *with* the N.C.W.C.

(Continued from previous page)

Death of Pope Pius XI Brings Many Requests For N. C. W. C. Printings of Famous Encyclicals

SINCE the death of Pope Pius XI the Publications Office of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, records a marked increase in the number of requests for both the separate pamphlet printings of the late Holy Father's encyclicals and for the cloth-bound volume containing his 16 most recent encyclical pronouncements. (See page 24).

Many of the requests for the Holy Father's encyclical teachings, the Publications Office notes, come from non-Catholic sources.

Local groups affiliated with the National Councils of Catholic Men and Women have been asked by national headquarters of these respective organizations to cooperate in the placement in public libraries and elsewhere of copies of the bound volume of the encyclicals, as a memorial to the late Pontiff; and also to cooperate in the distribution of the separate pamphlet printings through parish bookracks, and through local study club groups, forums, etc.

Hartford Catechetical Congress and N. C. C. W. Publish Proceedings of 1938 Meetings

THE Proceedings of the Fourth National Catechetical Congress of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, held at Hartford, October 1 to 4, has just been released. A volume of 471 pages, it is the fourth in an annual series published by the Confraternity. It is recognized as the most authentic source material for a study of what the Catholic Church in the United States is doing for the religious instruction of those outside of the Catholic school system.

A volume of the Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women, which was held in Biloxi, Miss., October 22-26, last year, has also just been made available by the National Headquarters of the N. C. C. W. The volume contains the addresses, resolutions adopted, discussions, reports, results of committee meetings, lists of national and local officers and affiliated organizations.

Copies of both proceedings may be had by writing the headquarters of both organizations—1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Catholic Hour Completing Ninth Year, Reports Shattering of Previous Records

ON MARCH 2, 1939, the nation-wide Catholic Hour, produced by the National Council of Catholic Men in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company, completed its ninth year on the air. On the following Sunday, March 5, a "birthday" program was presented, with an address by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, remarks suitable to the occasion by Edward J. Heffron, executive secretary of the National Council of Catholic Men, and a special program of music by the entire body of the Paulist Choristers and a symphony orchestra. A studio audience of 1,200 heard the regular air program and remained for a half-hour studio concert which followed.

The ninth year saw the shattering of many records, according to Mr. Heffron. In the first place, the Catholic Hour continued to be one of the oldest continuous programs on the air; its claim to the largest network of any year-round religious broadcast in the world was further buttressed by the fact that station acceptances soared to 80 (80 stations in 39 States, the District of Columbia, and Hawaii); audience mail went 55 per cent beyond the record-breaking figure established during the prior year (50,968 pieces of mail were received—an amazing total for a strictly religious

program); and special programs were produced in greater number than ever before, including a program of prayer at the time of the illness of Pope Pius XI, two memorial programs at the time of his death, another memorial program on the death of Cardinal Hayes, and the unusual series of five Holy Week programs, "The Living God" (to be re-enacted this year—see page 10).

C. C. I. P. Holds Successful Meetings In Indianapolis and Philadelphia

INDIANAPOLIS and Philadelphia were the scenes within the past month of successful regional meetings of the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems.

His Eminence, Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, sponsored the meeting in Benedict Hall of that city on March 28 and 29, and the Indianapolis conference, held February 27-28 at the Severin Hotel, was under the sponsorship of the Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, Bishop of Indianapolis.

Discussions of American economic life, of labor-employer cooperation, the Wages and Hour Law, proposed labor legislation, social security, the teachings of the Encyclical "Reconstructing the Social Order" in relation to American industry, and symposiums on ways and means to bring about a Christian social order were featured at both meetings. The speakers were prominent Catholics from the field of industry, labor and the teaching and professional world.

Meeting of Catholic Peace Association Scheduled for Washington, D. C., April 10-11

AN INTERNATIONAL Conference for Justice and Peace will be the theme of the thirteenth annual meeting of the Catholic Association for International Peace to be held in Washington, D. C., April 10 and 11.

Papers will be presented, followed by discussion, which will center on the need for such a conference; the hope for its success and present economic and ideological world conflicts; a possible, simple economic and political agenda, and the possibility of achieving agreement on an International Bill of Rights and on some advance in world organization.

The International Dinner at the Mayflower Hotel, Monday evening, April 10, will be the occasion for a tribute to the Catholic University of America on its golden jubilee.

The third annual meeting of the Catholic Student Peace Federations, to be held immediately following, on April 12, likewise will center on the theme of an International Conference.

Memorial Planned for Father Walsh, Former National Confraternity Director

TO PRESERVE his memory "in a fitting and enduring manner," the Father Francis Augustine Walsh Memorial Foundation has been established by former students at the Catholic University of America and friends of his at St. Anselm's Priory in Washington, D. C., of which he was a co-founder. Cooperating committees in Cincinnati and several other cities have been organized. Archbishop Curley, of Baltimore, chancellor of the University, and Archbishop McNicholas, in whose archdiocese Father Walsh labored before joining the Benedictine Order, have given their cordial approval of the plan for the foundation.

Father Walsh, widely known as a philosopher, was national director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine at the time of his death, August 12, 1938.

In making announcement of the Memorial Foundation, the Rev. Edward P. McAdams, chairman of the Washington

Committee, emphasized that there will be no public campaign, but that the movement will be confined to former students, associates, parishioners and friends of Father Walsh.

It is hoped, it was stated, that the total sum will reach an amount sufficient when invested, to produce an income which shall support the Community of St. Anselm's in carrying on its scholarly work in various intellectual fields.

Narberth Movement, N. C. C. M. Affiliate, Marks 10th Year of Information Service

NOTING the tenth anniversary of the organization of the Catholic Information Society of Narberth, Pa.—now popularly known as the Narberth Movement—CATHOLIC ACTION is most happy to congratulate the members of its Correspondence Committee upon their accomplishments throughout the first decade of the society's existence.

Starting in a very small way, under the energetic and self-sacrificing leadership of Karl H. Rogers, the society has now 125 branches throughout the United States.

These information societies are operating in cities, towns and villages in 29 states, in Canada, and British West Africa. Each of these branches every month mails Catholic information into the homes of 14,000 neighbors of other creeds.

Fifty-nine groups, operating on the Narberth Plan, are running information articles weekly in 152 secular papers of almost every type. These papers have a combined circulation of well over 1,000,000.

The society has adopted the slogan: "If it's anything Catholic—ask a Catholic."

To Mr. Rogers and his associates in the Narberth Movement, CATHOLIC ACTION extends heartiest congratulations!

First of Pamphlet Series on "Christian Democracy" Issued by N. C. W. C.

A NEW pamphlet series on "Christian Democracy" has recently been inaugurated with the appearance of "The Citizen, the Church and the State" by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan.

This pamphlet, published by the Paulist Press for the Department of Social Action, National Catholic Welfare Conference, is the first of a series on Christian Democracy which will deal with the problems and institutions of American democracy from the viewpoint of Christian teaching.

The series is dedicated to the thesis expressed by the beloved Pope Pius XI in his Apostolic Letter on the Catholic University of America at the opening of its jubilee, October, 1938: "Christian teaching alone, in its majestic integrity, can give full meaning and compelling motive to the demand for human rights and liberties because it alone gives worth and dignity to human personality." Each pamphlet will contain a study club outline on the text and suggestions for forming and conducting study clubs.

The duties of the Catholic citizen with respect to the Church's rights, to carry on religious worship, to perform religious services publicly as well as privately, to have a free press, to care for its poor, and to educate; his duties in the fields of morality, economics, and politics in order to help promote the common good—are among the many now very pertinent and fundamental points which Monsignor Ryan brings out.

An appendix gives selected quotations from the Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on "The Chief Duties of Christians as Citizens."

N. C. W. C. Executives Active in Important Conferences and Meetings

DUE to limited space it is regretted that more detailed reports can not be given at this time of important meetings, conferences and hearings in which a number of N. C. W. C. executives participated.

On March 20, the Catholic League, meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria for their Communion breakfast, had the privilege of hearing the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, address them on the importance of religious principles in the national life.

On March 26 Monsignor Ready delivered a radio address over Station WMAL in Washington, D. C., in connection with an appeal for the relief of European refugees. The address emphasized the concern of the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board in this pressing matter. Appearing on the same program were a Protestant minister and a Jewish rabbi.

On the February 25 "Call to Youth" program sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Women, Rev. Howard J. Carroll, S.T.D., assistant general secretary of the N. C. W. C., stressed the fact that youth's real need is spiritual.

Dr. Carroll also spoke recently in Providence, R. I., at the inauguration of the Catholic Students' Press Crusade, emphasizing the need of the Catholic press in the development of the individual.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan, director of the N. C. W. C. Social Action Department, spoke on March 18, over Station WMCA on "Communism and Democracy." The program was sponsored by the American Jewish Federation to Combat Communism, Nazism and Fascism.

Rev. George Johnson, Ph.D., director of the N. C. W. C. Department of Education appeared before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education on March 3 and, in the name of the Administrative Board of the N. C. W. C., opposed Senate Bill 1305 "in its present form." This bill is entitled "a bill to promote the general welfare through appropriation of funds to assist the States and Territories in providing more effective programs of public education."

Catholic Rural Work Praised in Letter Sent By Cardinal Pacelli Just Before Elevation

SHORTLY after the elevation of Cardinal Pacelli to the Chair of Peter, there was received in the United States a letter written by him as *Cardinale Camerlengo* praising the work of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. The letter was transmitted through His Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, to the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Great Falls, episcopal chairman of the National Catholic Social Action Department and honorary chairman of the Rural Life Conference. The letter, the last to reach the Delegation bearing the signature of Cardinal Pacelli, reads as follows:

Vaticano, February 27, 1939.

Il Cardinale CAMERLENGO di S.R.C.

Your Excellency:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the two specially bound and inscribed copies of "Catholic Rural Objectives" which you forwarded to me some time ago through His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate with the request that I present the one to the Holy Father and retain the other for myself.

I took early occasion to lay at the feet of His Holiness the copy which you had destined for him, and I am now glad to inform you that, after examining it with evident pleasure and interest, he charged me to convey to you and to your collaborators the expression of his paternal thanks together with his Apostolic Benediction.

You will permit me to add a word of my own deep appreciation for your goodness in placing a copy of this important publication in my hands.

With sentiments of high esteem and of cordial regard,

I am, Your Excellency,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

E. CARD. PACELLI.

POPE PIUS XI: DEFENDER of CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

SOCIAL philosopher extraordinary that Pius XI was, it was only to be expected that one of his many superb encyclicals should deal with that fundamental unit of society, the family. It was, in fact, this subject to which he turned his attention in his second world letter, "*Casti Connubii*" (of Chaste Wedlock), or as it is popularly known, the encyclical on "Christian Marriage." Even in his first encyclical, the one on "The Christian Education of Youth," His Holiness had pointed out and emphasized that fundamental purpose of the family, the training of the child. In it he recalled the age-old view of the Church that the family is the school of schools and that the parents are the teachers "par excellence." More than that His Holiness deplored the "present lamentable decline in family education" and urged the two great teaching bodies of the world, pastors and parents, to remedy the situation.

The following article is supplied by the director of the Family Life Section, N. C. W. C. Social Action Department.

By REV. EDGAR SCHMIEDELER, O.S.B.

IN HIS encyclical on Christian Marriage, Pius XI, in the very first pages, recalled to the attention of the world the fact that marriage is by its very nature a divine institution. From this basic fact he then went on to conclude that "the nature of matrimony is entirely independent of the free will of man so that if one has once contracted matrimony he is thereby subject to its divinely made laws and its essential properties."

There can be no question regarding the meaning of the words. Clearly and unmistakably they proclaim that marriage is God-made, not man-made, and that consequently it is subject to divine laws and not to human laws. And this, it must be noted, is true even prescinding from the sacramental character of the marriage of baptized Christians. That is, marriage even as a natural law contract, is a divine institution, and not merely a civil and profane pact.

Needless to add, the Holy Father points out that in so far as the baptized are concerned, marriage is not only a divine institution but also a sacrament of the New Law, a grace-conferring institution.

Students of Latin and Greek rhetoric will immediately recognize in the construction of *Casti Connubii* the tradition of classic culture. It is an example of an "Oratio," with its exordium, its divisions, its proofs, its peroration.

THE main body of the document is very logically sectioned off into three parts, the first dealing with the blessings of Christian Marriage, the second, with the errors and vices contrary to Christian marriage, and the third, with remedies for the evils against marriage. The second part is the largest of the three. It is this part particularly that makes the document an important pronouncement in the field of morals. Such a pronouncement was entirely to be expected since attacks on the moral code had been for some time centering largely in the family.

In the introduction to the encyclical Pius XI referred briefly to the remedies for the present mar-

riage situation. He there stated that, in order to obtain the desired fruits of a renewal of matrimony it is necessary: first, that men's minds be illuminated with the true doctrine of Christ regarding marriage; and second, that Christian spouses, the weakness of their wills strengthened by the internal grace of God, "shape their ways of thinking and acting in conformity with that pure law of Christ so as to obtain true peace and happiness for themselves and for their families."

THE pages of *Casti Connubii* in which His Holiness considers the difficulties with which families in straitened circumstances have to contend and the remedies for such difficulties, are among the most striking in the document and reveal the genuine concern of Pius XI for the poor. First of all, the Supreme Pontiff reviews the teaching of Leo XIII regarding the living wage, cautioning at the same time, however, that a reasonable thrift is expected before marriage. Then he speaks for aid to poor families through private and public guilds, for assistance to the poor on the part of the rich, and for public assistance whenever private resources do not suffice.

The marriage encyclical was written at a crucial period of history, at a time when the forces of evil and of error had reached sufficient strength openly, blatantly and confidently to attack the foundations of Christian marriage. Even some within the Church were being misled, or were giving in to the promptings of the pagan spirit of the time. Pius XI clearly stated this in the encyclical. "A great number of men," he said, "forgetful of that divine work of redemption, either entirely ignore or shamelessly deny the great sanctity of Christian wedlock or, relying on the false principles of a new and utterly perverse morality, too often trample it under foot. . . . And," he added, "since these most pernicious errors and depraved morals have begun to spread even amongst the faithful and are gradually gaining ground, in Our office of Christ's Vicar upon earth and Supreme Shepherd and Teacher We consider it Our duty to raise Our voice to

Example of the Home of Nazareth

"The Son of God wished to have His own family on this Earth; born of the Heavenly Father from all eternity, He had no earthly father, but He chose a foster father, a solicitous guardian, St. Joseph, the just man, true Spouse of the Virgin Mother, Mary. The purposes of the Holy Family are connected with the mystery of the Divine Incarnation and transcend the ordinary life of man. But in the humble home of Nazareth what shining examples we have of family virtues, work, sacrifices, holiness of life. And in its midst the Divine Child 'advanced in wisdom and age, and grace with God and men' (Luke II, 52). Without the grace of God the most noble human relations are broken. 'Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it' (Ps. 126, 1). If man 'transgressing the laws established by God' does not retain Him with sincerity and in practice as the Author and last end of life, Creator of marriage and the family, he will never find stability nor integrity of individual, family and social life."—E. S.

THE DIVINE LAW ON FAMILY LIFE*(Continued from page 11)*

keep the flock committed to our care from poisoned pastures and, as far as it in Us lies, to prevent it from harm."

MAKING well known the vital teachings of this great encyclical and promoting the application of its principles both within and outside the household of the Faith are tasks which challenge the earnest efforts of all who recognize the importance and function of the Christian family and the necessity of its preservation for the welfare of religion and the good of society.

While the voice of the great Shepherd, Pius XI, is now stilled in death, the words of his encyclicals live on. May they, under the reign of his august successor, Pius XII, continue to wield an influence that will lead to a renewal of Christian marriage that will meet even the highest expectations of their author.

Study Outline on the Encyclical of Pope Pius XI on "Christian Marriage"

IN LIEU of the scheduled study outline for this month and in consideration of the importance of the address of His Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, at the National Conference on Christian Marriage and the comment herein by the director of the Family Life Section, N. C. W. C. Social Action Department, on "Pope Pius XI: Defender of Christian Marriage," the N. C. W. C. Study Club Committee respectfully directs the attention of all interested study club groups to the following outline based on Pope Pius XI's "Christian Marriage" encyclical.

INTRODUCTION

1. Of what does this Encyclical treat? Give the Latin title and its meaning.
2. To whom is the Encyclical addressed?
3. Name the last Encyclical issued on the subject treated, and by what Pope.
4. What gives the present Encyclical its great importance?

THE NATURE OF MARRIAGE

1. Is matrimony of divine or human origin?
2. In what way does freedom of the will enter into matrimony?
3. What is the limitation of the human will in respect to marriage?
4. Distinguish the characteristics in marriage having their authorship in (a) God; (b) man.
5. What are the effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony in respect to (a) grace; (b) natural powers?
6. What must men do to reap the fruits of this sacrament?

INDISSOLUBILITY OF MARRIAGE

1. Can the Church ever annul a valid consummated marriage?
2. Of what is Christian marriage the figure?
3. Enumerate the benefits which flow from the indissolubility of marriage.
4. Name four things which should be observed in preparing for marriage.
5. What is the great obstacle in the way of restoring marriage to the perfection intended by Christ?
6. Give the Supreme Pastor's answer to the claims made for divorce.
7. Cite the dangers in mixed marriage: (a) to the parties; (b) to the character of the sacrament.
8. Does the Church permit separation? Does separation affect the binding character of marriage?
9. What precautions should be taken in cases of separation?
10. Give the remedies urged by the Holy Father to restore the Christian character of marriage.

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

1. What are three blessings of marriage?
2. What is the duty towards children after parenthood?
3. What are the two prime elements of conjugal faith?
4. What is the erroneous conception of marriage which has become widespread in our time?
5. What is the essence of new forms of marriage, and what does the Holy Father say of them?
6. What is the meaning given to subjection and obedience of the wife in the Christian conception of marriage?
7. What has the Pope to say on the emancipation of women?
8. Is there a legitimate equality of rights between husband and wife?

DANGERS TO THE FAMILY

1. State the Supreme Pastor's declaration on birth control.
2. Are there secondary ends in the use of matrimonial rights? What are they and under what conditions may they be exercised?
3. What are the Holy Father's recommendations where parents face difficulties in fulfilling their obligations?
4. Is taking the life of the unborn child ever justified?
5. What is the duty of the public authority in regard to this act?
6. Is sterilization of mentally deficient persons morally justifiable or permissible?

THE STATE AND THE FAMILY

1. What does the Holy Father say of social and economic conditions affecting the family?
2. Cite conditions in which the state should act to protect the family.
3. What is the duty of the state to the family?
4. Is the temporal power of the state sufficient by itself to preserve moral standards?
5. What is the Pope's recommendation to those in power in governments?

CATHOLIC PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

THE accompanying article is the fourth in a series being prepared under the sponsorship of the National Council of Catholic Women. The first article explained the "Aim and Purpose of the Parent-Teacher Association," the second discussed "Membership and Affiliation," and the third the "Development of Parent-Teacher Organizations in the Fort Wayne Diocese." It is the purpose of the N. C. C. W. to preserve each original article and all comments thereon for a possible publication at the close of the school year. All Parent-Teacher and School and Home groups are invited to add to or criticize the articles as they appear.

IV. Catholic Parent-Teacher Association Programming

Contributed by the Catholic Parent-Teacher League, Diocese of Denver

Falling within the boundaries of adult education, the Denver P. T. League adopted as its guiding theme: "Privileges and Obligations of the Catholic Citizen in Modern Democracy." Its many objectives are to bring to Catholic parents a better understanding of the general principles by which our people are governed; to build up public opinion which may serve as a barricade against the attacks being made on democracy; and to aid in the combating of subversive movements at home and abroad.

While this series is directed generally to the idea of parent education, the indirect end is the child's training for citizenship. Intelligent family discussion in the home of the privileges and obligations of democracy, the Denver program holds, will inspire the child to become an enlightened participant in democratic government.

General Content of P.-T. A. Programs

PROGRAMS of the Catholic Parent-Teacher Associations deal with subjects related to the child and his welfare.

Genuinely religious in character, these programs stress the importance of Catholic child and parent education. They serve to "coordinate the spiritual and educational forces of the home, church, and school in a program of Catholic child training."

If possible, the program should be planned a year in advance. Special care should be given to selecting the year's plan which includes both the regular meeting program and the other activities of the Association. The chairman, or committee in charge, should study the needs and interests of the local Catholic group with the thought of procuring a program that is Catholic in principle, educational in value and within the scope of Parent-Teacher Association activities.

It should be kept in mind, when selecting the subject for programs, what has gone before, how long the group has been organized and what degree of development it has attained. Care should be taken that the topic fits the needs of the group for which it is patterned. An ideal, well-balanced program provides for an opening prayer, community singing, selections, a brief business session, reports on activities undertaken, a short presentation by the guest speaker or lecturer, and a social hour in which parents may informally discuss subjects relative to child welfare, meet the teachers, and greet new and old acquaintances.

Knowledge of Needs as the Basis of Program Making

"The program committee should find some educational problem in the community that needs solution and attack such aspects of it as are properly within the field of the Parent-Teacher Association." Every community has need for improvement in child welfare conditions and the Parent-Teacher Association, the agency through which it is hoped to better community conditions, should seek material for its program within its own locality.

Priests and sisters, in charge of the educational system of the parochial schools, often have in mind ideas suitable for association programs, which when undertaken, make worth-while contributions to the child and parent educational program. Catholic schools are solicitous of the parent's interest concerning the purpose and plan of Catholic education. Knowledge of changes in the school curriculum enables parents to keep abreast with developments in relation to the progress of their own children. In order that the curriculum changes might achieve their purposes parental cooperation is of prime importance.

Knowledge of the school buildings, their equipment, and management would aid the Parent-Teacher Association in the planning of improvements that would render more effective the general educative process.

Suggestions for Discussion Topics

The Catholic home is seeking helpful information concerning the care, guidance, education, and protection of its children. Parents are eager to raise the standards of home life; they are concerned with the leisure time activities of their children; they are desirous of promoting better spiritual life within the family; and they are anxious to secure the best literature possible for family reading. They are asking how these ideals can be accomplished. Program topics should supply this information.

Again, community life interests parents and teachers in securing wholesome Catholic activities for children and young people during their increasing leisure hours out of school and away from the home. So also, Catholic parents are anxious to know more of civic affairs, so that they might cooperate to a higher degree in community management.

Other enlightening and interesting topics may be obtained from a survey of the community such as "The Neighborhood Theatre and the Showing of Approved Pictures" or "The Corner Drug Store and the Magazine Rack." Juvenile courts are prepared to furnish facts worthy of consideration in the study of community delinquency. The Parent-Teacher meetings should supply the opportunity for discussions through these topics that will contribute to the building up of constructive attitudes and principles and this lead to the attainment of strong educational objectives.

Reports and pamphlets published from time to time by the local, state or national departments of education, on the subjects of health, recreation, safety, and social welfare, provide valuable program material. These are but a few of the topics directly associated with the church, school, home and the community that the active program committee will use to vitalize the meetings.

Presenting the P.-T. A. Program

As soon as the year's theme has been chosen, it should be analyzed, and the objectives stated, as:

"The Catholic Child and His Home"; "The Study of the Catholic Child in His Home"; "The Incultation of Higher Standards of Catholic Home Life."

When the theme is ready for development into subjects or the individual meeting, a few particular points should be taken into consideration: the nature of the subject to be presented, the length of time allotted to the program, the result desired, and the type and size of the membership. All of these aid in determining the method of presentation. The lecture method is used in large gatherings when the group is adaptable to it and will respond to such a presentation. The topic is presented by a speaker under this method. Book reviews, articles, papers, and development of radio programs help to vary this method.

Effective Methods of Discussion

Discussion methods are the most effective but are the most difficult of realization. General discussions, panels, debates, forums, question boxes, and symposiums help to vary this method of program procedure. Unusual methods such as demonstrations, dramatizations, motion pictures and slides, hold the interest and attention.

In program procedure, however, chairmen and committee members must remember the old dictum that one gets as much out of work as he puts in. The development of a worthwhile series of programs serving the best ends of child and adult education is a laborious task. But it is one that brings superior rewards in the contribution that is, makes to a more enlightened laity capable of greater accomplishments in the field of Catholic Action.

Following herewith is a suggested outline for a full year's program (The program presented here is that of the Catholic P. T. League of the Diocese of Denver):

September: I. Patronage: Our Lady of Good Counsel. Feast of nativity of Our Blessed Lady falls on September 8.; II. Virtue: Sacrifice. (Imitation of the Holy Family of Nazareth.); III. Topic: Procedure of the executive section of our State government; IV. Discussion.

October: I. Patronage: Queen of the most Holy Rosary. Feast of the guardian angel; II. Virtue: Prudence. (Care of the child—soul, mind and body.); III. Topic: The State Judiciary System; IV. Discussion.

November: I. Patronage: Christ the King. Special Devotion to Poor Souls; II. Virtue: Christian Solidarity. "Christian Education and American Citizenship"; III. Topic: The State Legislature; IV. Discussion.

December: I. Patronage: St. John, the Baptist. (Study character of St. John, the Baptist, as revealed in the gospels of Sundays of Advent); II. Virtue: Unselfishness; III. Topic: City Executive Government.

January: I. Patronage: The Holy Family. (Childhood life of Christ, an example for Catholic parents to follow); II. Virtue: Family Solidarity. "In the designs of Divine Providence, the whole race was destined to be one great family united in common faith and love"; III. Topic: The Relation of the city council or advisory board to the local executive; IV. Discussion.

February: I. Patronage: The Jesuit Martyrs. The Jesuit Martyrs, who shed their blood for the spread of the faith in the new world, bear witness to the truth that the foundation of all social and political welfare are in Christ Jesus; II. Virtue: Loyalty to Home and Country; III. Topic: The Local Courts; IV. Discussion.

March: I. Patronage: St. Joseph. Feast of St. Joseph, foster father of our Blessed Saviour, head of the Holy Family, under whose care Our Saviour advanced in wisdom and age and grace with God and man; II. Virtue: Solicitude for the welfare of the child; III. Topic: Relation of city and state to national government; IV. Discussion.

April: I. Patronage: Our Risen Lord; II. Virtue: Courage in the cause of Christ; III. Topic: Taxation, the means by which local, state and national governments are supported; IV. Discussion.

May: I. Patronage: Our Blessed Lady. The Queen of May and the Queen of Youth; II. Virtue: Purity; III. Panel Discussion. "Privileges and Obligations of the Catholic Citizen in a modern Democracy."

November Meeting: Catholic Education Week

Theme: Children's Reading.
Purpose: To develop child's religious and moral training through the reading of good books.
To secure the cultural benefit from reading of good literature in the home.
To direct leisure hours to love and appreciation and knowledge of world's best literature.

Program: Prayer:
Virtue: Religious Instruction.
Patronage: Devotion to Poor Souls.
Theme: "Children's Reading."
1. "Growing up with Books."
(Librarian.)
2. "Literary Climate in the Home."
(Parent.)
3. Supplementing the school program at home.
(Teacher.)

Music: Community singing.
Patriotic Feature: Thanksgiving.
Social discussion period.

N. C. W. C. PREPARING REPRINT OF BISHOPS' PROGRAM OF SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION

SHORTLY after the World War the Bishops of the Administrative Committee, National Catholic War Council, issued what subsequent events have proved to be perhaps the most far-seeing statement on the need of social and economic reform that had, up until that time, been issued in this country.

The statement was entitled "Bishops' Program of Social Reconstruction"—a general review of the problems and survey of remedies, and millions of copies in pamphlet form have been distributed since the date of its issue, February 12, 1919. At the time of appearance, the statement was commented on favorably in the press of the entire nation. Its distribution was at that time free, due to availability of funds allocated to the National Catholic War Council as a result of the United War Drive and, for some time after its appearance, advertisements were placed in all the leading newspapers of the country.

The statement was signed by the four Administrative Bishops of the War Council, namely, Bishops Muldoon, of Rockford; Schrembs, of Toledo; Hayes (later Cardinal), Bishop of Tagaste; and Russell, of Charleston. Bishop Schrembs is the only one of the signatories living today.

The twentieth anniversary revised edition of this pronouncement will shortly issue from N. C. W. C. headquarters with an added introductory statement by the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and chairman of the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board. The pamphlet reprint will be available shortly after April 15 and will sell for 10 cents per copy.

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While our limited supply lasts, the following books are offered either separately or in combination at the prices mentioned:

	Original Price	Special Single Volume Price
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OVERSEAS WAR WORKERS

By
Mary Chabot Trainor

JOIN UP WITH N. C. C. W.

A RECENT affiliate of the N. C. C. W. which promises to become one of its most interested and useful units is the Overseas Division of the former National Catholic War Council. The president of this division contributes the accompanying brief article explaining the aims and purposes of her organization. Indicative of the spirit of sacrifice and cooperation displayed by its members, is their pledge of a \$1,000.00 contribution to the National Catholic School of Social Service—the predecessor of which was "Clifton," the War Council's emergency training school for women overseas workers. "Clifton" graduated 252 women from its training courses and sent 242 of them into service in this country and overseas. It is the alumnae of this splendid beginning of the N. C. S. S. S. who have united once more to aid a permanent program of social service in which they were illustrious pioneers.

IT WAS with a feeling of rare joy and with a sober recollection of full days spent years ago at old "Clifton" that the writer on a recent visit to N. C. C. W. headquarters enthusiastically followed the gracious guidance of the executive secretary of the National Council of Catholic Women, through all the departments and bureaus of the N. C. W. C. For me, the privileged president of our newly-formed Overseas Division of the N. C. C. W., the two days' visit was one of inspiration and incentive for future usefulness.

Going from one department to another was heard the same delighted response from staff members: "How happy this would have made the late Father Burke—to have the Overseas Group continue some line of impelling Catholic Action!" That, if nothing else, makes our determined desire to work as a group once again definitely sure. Father Burke, who was our spiritual guide back in those days of service, always wanted us to carry on even when the exciting days of reconstruction seemed to be at an end.

An atmosphere of holiness pervades the quiet dignity of Father Burke's former office, now occupied by his friend and former assistant, Monsignor Ready. Above the open fireplace, built in the tiles under his direction, are three distinctive symbols: the American eagle, the seal of the National Catholic War Council and the American flag. Designing that seal for the War Council which he was instrumental in organizing and which he so loved and so gloriously served, Father Burke gave expression to his great love of Church and Country when he retained it as the symbol of the National Catholic Welfare Council. Reading the message on that precious little emblem, tears sprang to the eyes and prayers to the lips as the act of consecration for social workers flashed across the mind. "The Cross" of the seal, Father Burke wrote, typifies "the symbol of faith in right, in justice; the symbol of Him who died for truth and right and justice; the symbol of the faith that is the spring and inspiration of doing for others according to justice and love." "The Circle" interprets "the symbol of service; all embracing; equally dispensing its labor, its enfolding strength, to all without end; the symbol of enduring, complete service to all."

The "confidences with God" and country were revived as one's eyes fell on a treasured war relic—the American flag above the doorway. Alongside this, shone the silver cup given by the doughboys to the workers of the finest service club in Paris—the N. C. W. C.'s "Etoile," the first house opened overseas as a club and haven for overseas service men. If only each "Clifton" overseas worker could have been there in that room that dusky evening to re-live old memories at the sight of these valued emblems, no further argument would be necessary to urge all to action for the N. C. C. W. and its special interests.

No one of us should forget that we were truly pioneers—charter members of the present large group included in the N. C. C. W.—for, in the words of Miss Regan:

"The Women's Committee of the National Catholic War

Council did a very splendid work, the story of which will add lustre to the brilliant pages of the history of our war work, but to that story must be added what will prove to have been one of its greatest contributions to our national life. It laid the foundation of the National Council of Catholic Women, which hopes to carry the same spirit of unity, devotion and self-sacrifice into the solving of problems of peace of which it gave such splendid example during the war period."

Fellow workers of our old initial National Catholic War Council, let us have your wholehearted support, therefore, in any plans that will be sent forth to you. We are all now active members of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, privileged to work under one of its two coordinate lay departments, that of the National Council of Catholic Women.

May I urge all who served as overseas workers to send in their yearly subscription as soon as possible for CATHOLIC ACTION, the official organ of the Conference (formerly called the National Catholic War Council Bulletin)? You may thereby keep in constant touch with the wide and varied activities of your Conference and at the same time learn how YOU may fall in line for concrete action under its inspiration and guidance.

For the information of our readers, I should like to state that Mrs. Leo Owens (Marie Reilly), 370 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn., historian of the overseas organization, is making a survey based on the records of those who served in the overseas division. A detailed questionnaire has been sent out to each member whose address could be secured. Additional questionnaires will be sent out as names of other members are discovered, hoping ultimately for a complete service record of the Overseas Division. After all the questionnaires have been returned, Mrs. Owens will compile a report which will be published as an article in CATHOLIC ACTION.

The Overseas Group welcomes its present opportunity to serve again. May the spirit and response of its members equal if not exceed that of those who wholeheartedly enlisted two decades ago "for God and Country!"

PASTOR'S APPRECIATION OF MARCH ISSUE

FROM many letters received at N. C. W. C. headquarters following the issuance of CATHOLIC ACTION's Pope Pius XI Memorial Number we quote the following from a prominent Arkansas pastor:

"I recently received the March edition of CATHOLIC ACTION and think it is the finest tribute I have yet seen to the memory of the late Pope Pius XI. I take this opportunity to congratulate the editor on an exceptional piece of work. I consider the edition well worth preservation. Its contents will prove invaluable for future reference. I am placing it in my files."

N. C. C. W. ACTIVITIES *in the* DIOCESES

N. C. C. W. to Hold Model Conference in Dubuque

SIX HUNDRED miles of driving, that is the contemplated trip of one delegate to the regional conference of the National Council of Catholic Women to be held in Dubuque, May 16-17, at the Hotel Julien. Letters from all adjoining dioceses show great interest in and enthusiasm for the meeting.

The Most Rev. Francis J. L. Beckman, Archbishop of Dubuque, will be host to the conference, assisted by the Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. Mrs. E. J. Sweeney, a member of the National Board of Directors, is president of Dubuque Archdiocesan Council, and will welcome the delegates.

The program, a working institute, will stress especially the work of discussion clubs, youth, parent-teacher associations and rural life. The organization of diocesan councils, a discussion of attendant problems and an explanation of the Bishops' program for united Catholic Action will occupy the first day. This meeting will serve as a model for other future regional conferences.

The sermon at the opening Mass will be given by the Most Rev. Henry P. Rohlfman, Bishop of Davenport. The morning session will be devoted to a stating of the purpose of the regional conference and to an explanation of "The National Catholic Welfare Conference — Chart and Compass."

"The Diocesan Council as a unifying and coordinating agency," "The Deanery Council—Its Purpose and Value," "Stimulating Parish Organization" and "Diocesan Council Cooperation with Diocesan Directors of Special Programs" will be discussed at the afternoon session. In addition, Miss Lenna M. Wilson, field secretary, will outline the set-up of "The National Committee System of the N. C. C. W." and activities. "The National Catholic School of Social Service," the special project of the N. C. C. W., training and contribution, will be the topic of an address by Miss Ethel Garside, a graduate of the School and now executive secretary of Catholic Charities, Davenport, Iowa.

"Catholic Woman's Influence in National and International Relations" will be given by Miss Anne Sarachon Hooley, co-chairman of the National Committee on International Relations, and a delegate to the meeting of the International Union of Catholic Women's League in Rome. Archbishop Beckman will give the "Influence of the Catholic Church in the Modern World."

N. C. C. W. Sends Delegates to Rome Meeting of I. U. C. W. L.

ON MARCH 25, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the United States, eight delegates left New York for the quadrennial Congress of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, to be held in Rome, April 11-18.

The official delegate from the United States is Miss Mary G. Hawks, former president of the National Council of Catholic Women and now chairman of its National Committee on International Relations. Miss Hawks is the U. S. member of the Bureau, the governing body of the International Union. Attending the meeting of the Youth Section, I. U. C. W. L., will be Miss Anne Sarachon Hooley, chairman of the National Committee on Youth, and Miss Anna Rose Kimpel, field secretary of Youth activities. The National Council of Catholic Women is affiliated as a corresponding center with the Youth Section.

Other delegates who went as observers were Miss Char-

A luncheon honoring visiting diocesan presidents and representatives, with a brief greeting from each, will be held the first day. Miss Edmire E. Quinlan, national director from the Province of Milwaukee, will preside.

The second day there will be a special luncheon for diocesan council spiritual directors, presidents, representatives and chairmen of organization and development. Mrs. Earl R. Reynolds, national president, will preside at this as well as all General Sessions of the Conference.

The Rev. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., director, Rural Life Bureau, N. C. W. C., will speak on "Rural Catholic Action" at the Rural Life Institute Session, May 17. Mrs. Martin Britten, study club chairman of the Des Moines Diocesan Council, will preside. Other talks include "Organization in a Rural Parish," by the Rev. John B. Herbers, Dyersville, Iowa, and "Program Aids Provided through Extension Service, Department of Agriculture."

At the Youth Institute Session, Mrs. Alfred Lucas, Birmingham, national co-chairman of the N. C. C. W. Youth Committee, will preside, and Miss Helen Rhode, Green Bay, Diocesan Youth chairman, will speak on "Diocesan Programming," while Miss Mary Margaret Rutherford, Des Moines, will talk on "Effective Leadership."

"The Necessity for a Well-Informed Laity," by Miss Margaret Hughes, president of the Springfield D. C. C. W., will begin the Discussion Clubs Institute session. There will be a discussion of source material and a demonstration of a religious discussion club, Miss Ella Carroll, chairman of the National Committee on Study Clubs, presiding.

During the afternoon there will be given a summary of each Institute's proceedings, an address on "Capitalizing Results," and a closing message by Archbishop Beckman.

A visit to Columbia Museum will close the sessions. This is the first regional conference to be held in the middle west; only one other such conference has been held heretofore in the United States. It affords an excellent opportunity for Catholic women to come together for a discussion of programs and mutual problems. At the end of each Institute Session ample time is to be given for discussion of the work of these special committees.

Diocesan presidents and publicity chairmen are actively publicizing the conference. One president writes, "I am sending copies of the letter and program to our Bishop and spiritual director. I will arrange a board meeting if possible; if not, this message will go out to all districts urging them to be present. . . . Our Catholic press and local press will carry publicity of this Conference."

lotte Meagher, Buffalo; Miss Margaret McQuillan, Merrick, N. Y.; Miss Sarah Manly, Baltimore; Miss Bernadette Hughes, Montclair, N. J.; and Miss Nina Noble, Manhattanville College, New York City.

Besides presenting special reports on work in the United States on Morals and Hygiene, Religion, and Industrial Problems, the National Council of Catholic Women will have exhibits of literature used in the work of its National Committees on Extension of Religious Education, Family and Parent Education, Industrial Problems, Libraries and Literature, National Catholic School of Social Service, Study Clubs, and Youth.

Mrs. Reynolds, National President, Active in N. C. C. W. Organization

FROM Chicago to New York, from Grand Rapids, Mich., to Florida has been the itinerary of our national president, Mrs. Earl R. Reynolds, since the beginning of the year. This itinerary has included representation at secular

meetings as well as at Council gatherings. Outstanding meetings in the past month have included the League of Catholic Women in Moline, Catholic Women's Club in Kenosha, Wis., and the Scranton Diocesan Council convention.

At the meeting in Grand Rapids seed was sown for the organization of a diocesan council in that diocese, report of which appears elsewhere in this issue.

Miss Regan, executive secretary, addressed the organization meeting in Grand Rapids as well as the organization meeting of the Detroit Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. In addition, Miss Regan addressed the meeting of the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems in Indianapolis and a meeting of immigration chairmen in the Harrisburg Diocese.

The trip attendant upon the organization meetings in Grand Rapids and Detroit gave opportunity for some interesting contacts on the work of the National Catholic School of Social Service. A group of women in the Toledo Diocese met Miss Regan at luncheon at the Catholic Community House where the problems of the Council and the School were discussed. In Chicago, Mrs. Reynolds called together a group of representatives of affiliated organizations who enthusiastically voted to plan a May Party for the benefit of the School. Visits to Marygrove College, Detroit; Mary Manse, Toledo; Catholic Junior College, Grand Rapids; Mundelein College, Chicago; and Rosary College, River Forest, gave an opportunity to present the training the School offers for Catholic social workers.

The National Council of Catholic Women asks that you remember in your prayers Mrs. W. J. O'Toole, St. Paul, a member of the first group that met to form the Council and also a member of the first Board of Directors from the Province of St. Paul; and Mrs. James Downey, Birmingham, a member of the National Board from 1926-1933.

Lay Retreats Urged in Memory of Pope Pius XI

AS POPE of the Retreat Movement we wish to pay particular tribute to Pius XI. Our president, Mrs. Reynolds, urges in the following words the holding of retreats, especially at this time in his memory:

"The same Pope who called the world to Catholic Action stressed again and again the necessity of spiritual retreats. Without a spiritual background no action can properly be called Catholic Action.

"For many years as a young priest, Pope Pius XI had been chaplain of the Cenacle Convent in Milan. There he saw at first hand the richness of the treasury of a spiritual retreat in the lives of the laity.

"In memory of the great Pope, whose passing has cast a shadow across the world, no Catholic woman should allow a single year to go by without having made a spiritual retreat. It is only during the silence and meditations and conferences of a retreat that the soul can expand beneath the grace of God, even as a flower opens at the touch of the morning sun.

"An annual retreat is, as it were, a novitiate for Catholic Action. At the close of a retreat each retreatant comes forth a crusader in the cause of Christ. If every Catholic woman will place an annual retreat upon her schedule, the future of the National Council of Catholic Women will become what our beloved hierarchy desires it to be: the handmaid of the Church and a dynamic source of Catholic Action throughout our country."

During the past few years, many more diocesan councils have added annual retreats to their program, and these retreats have grown from a day of recollection to three-day retreats.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN

OVER 750 members and guests attended the organization meeting of the Detroit Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women held in Detroit, March 18. The organization climaxes ten months of intensive work on the part of Mrs. Edward Askin Skae, a member of the National

Board of Directors. Through her untiring and unceasing efforts Mrs. Skae helped in the formation of parish and district councils and laid plans for the final organization meeting. One hundred and fifty-eight parish councils were set up and forty city-wide organizations became members. Illness prevented Mrs. Skae's attendance at this final meeting where formal organization took place, constitution and by-laws adopted and officers elected. In recognition of the fine work she had done, the delegates elected Mrs. Skae president of the Archdiocesan Council for the coming year.

The Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, celebrated the opening Mass in the Church of St. Aloysius. His Excellency was guest speaker at the luncheon, attended by 660 guests. The Most Rev. Stephen Woznicki, Auxiliary Bishop, and the Rev. Dr. Edward J. Hickey were also in attendance.

The Archbishop, who gave of his time and attention to the organization of the council in the Archdiocese, addressed the members with words of encouragement and advice. He noted with satisfaction that the Council had 198 affiliations and expressed deep appreciation to all who helped in organizing the Council. The Council, His Excellency explained, provides the point of contact with ecclesiastical authority, with those who have the responsibility of directing the social activities of the Church, and gives our organizations an ordered means of making their contributions to the formation of Catholic opinion on a national scale and to the focusing of that opinion on moral and social questions of national import.

Archbishop Mooney urged the women to offer their services to their respective pastors for the good of the parishes and for such wider movements as the coming campaign for clean literature. His Excellency also praised the plan of rotation of officers. This will help develop leadership in all affiliated organizations.

Miss Agnes G. Regan, executive secretary of the N. C. C. W., explained the setup and purposes of the Council, and pointed out its part in the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The Council, she stated, represents a tremendous channel for Catholic Action in this country, and is affiliated with the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, which is the channel for united international Catholic Action.

Miss Regan made a plea for the National Catholic School of Social Service. Because existing schools are not supplying the need for trained social workers as brought about by the Social Security Act, there is a fine opportunity for graduates of the N. C. S. S. to spread Christian influence through social service.

The resolutions of the convention included opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment, to the Fitzgerald Labor Bill, and approval of the Pollock Civil Service Bill. The delegates also voted to aid in a program for social justice and charity.

In addition to Mrs. Skae, other officers of the Archdiocesan Council elected were Miss Clara Swieczkowski, secretary, and Mrs. Leon C. Finck, treasurer.

The eight deanery presidents who will serve as vice presidents are Mrs. Charles H. Harrington, Mrs. Ralph Rice, Mrs. Charles P. Karrer and Miss Mildred Connelly, Detroit; Mrs. William J. Burns, Ann Arbor; Mrs. Luke J. Lavelly, Marine City; Mrs. Arthur C. Ralston, Milvindale; and Mrs. James Pendergast, Pontiac.

Mrs. Thomas Brady, president of the Christ Child Society, presided at the luncheon.

DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

ON MARCH 23, 1939, the diocese that nurtured the early priesthood of the man who was one of the founders of the National Council of Catholic Women and its Episcopal Chairman for 16 years, the Most Rev. Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland, completed organizing its diocesan council, the sixty-third in the United States.

More than a quarter century ago Bishop Schrembs, then Father Schrembs, was pastor of St. Mary's parish, Grand Rapids. Here he was made a monsignor and later became

iliary to the late Most Rev. Henry Joseph Richter. After he became Bishop of Toledo and then Bishop of Cleveland, where he organized one of the earliest and most successful diocesan councils.

The Council organized March 23 was conceived last September when Mrs. Gerald B. Bennett, League president, invited Mrs. Earl R. Reynolds, national president, to address the League's annual dinner.

On her arrival for the dinner, January 25, Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Bennett obtained an audience with the Most Rev. Joseph G. Pinten, Bishop of Grand Rapids. Together the women advanced the diocesan council proposal and won approval. Immediately His Excellency appointed Rev. Edmund Falicki of St. Joseph's Seminary as ritual director and authorized the groundwork for organizing. Mrs. Reynolds arranged for the services of Miss Lenna M. Wilson, field secretary on organization.

Meanwhile Bishop Pinten sent a letter to the pastors asking that pulpit announcements be made of the coming organization work, expressing his indorsement and assigning the district territories and district conference dates. Hand in hand with the preliminary work, publicity for the coming organization meeting was given to the press. Starting with the report of the annual dinner, some two or three items of advance publicity and news was carried in the *Michigan Catholic*, the *Grand Rapids Press and Herald*, and papers in the seven other district centers.

The first district conference in Grand Rapids, March 16, drew more than 600 women and a large representation of the clergy. Proportionately enthusiastic conferences followed in the next fortnight in Muskegon, Manistee, Traverse City, Cheboygan, Cadillac, Gaylord and Mount Pleasant.

The final set-up of the Council was perfected at an all-district meeting in St. Andrew's Cathedral and gymnasium. Luncheon meeting was held at the Pantlind Hotel. His Excellency, Bishop Pinten; Father Falicki, the Rev. Henry Simon, the Rev. Emmeran L. Quaderer, Mrs. Bennett, Leo W. Walsh and Miss Margaret Duncan were on the convention program.

In his address, Bishop Pinten gave his greetings and blessing to the women assembled at the luncheon. "There is a field of labor for this organization," he said. "We need it. A bond of faith unites us, tells us what we must do, how we shall share in the responsibility of the Church. Primarily those in authority in the Church share in a special way the responsibility. Then the laity are called on. This is particularly true in recent times, when the laity are sought out to give personal and coordinated service. There is a great work before us. May this organization live, grow and flourish."

A possible function of the Council, said the Rev. Emmeran L. Quaderer, diocesan superintendent of schools, would be to undertake the campaign for decent literature. Father Quaderer suggested integration of the work of Christian education. An alertness to anti-Christian forces in the press was stressed by Mrs. Walsh. The need for study clubs, which will be formed in each parish under the auspices of the Council, was discussed by Miss Margaret Duncan, president of the Manistee district.

Father Falicki pointed out the responsibilities of members of the Council as leaders in their parishes.

Miss Wilson, who lent encouraging assistance in the formation of the Council, cautioned the women that although their new organization has had "a marvelous beginning," the real work of achieving its ideals lies ahead. Miss Agnes G. Regan, executive secretary of the N. C. C. W., gave a most inspiring talk at the luncheon on "Living a Changing World." Miss Regan pointed out the attacks that are being made today on fundamental morality, family relations—divorce, birth control, sterilization, decent literature, immoral plays, suggestive motion pictures—all lending their influence to the insidious attacks on Christian ideals and Christian standards. She asked the women to be on the alert to these dangers and help combat them in their communities.

More than a thousand women, representing over 10,000 Catholic women in the diocese, attended the final sessions.

Diocesan council officers for the ensuing term are: President, Mrs. Gerald B. Bennett, Grand Rapids; vice presidents, Mrs. D. L. Mead, Grand Rapids; Mrs. D. E. Kunkel, Muskegon; Mrs. Harold Dugal, Traverse City; Mrs. Walter Nelson, Gaylord; Miss Margaret Duncan, Manistee; Mrs. Joseph Bilitzke, Cheboygan; Mrs. Guy D. Game, Cadillac; treasurer, Mrs. Joseph A. Filipiak, Grand Rapids; recording secretary, Mrs. John Good, Holland; auditor, Miss Helen C. Moore, Cadillac.

DIocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

ALMOST every parish in the Harrisburg Diocese was represented at a meeting on immigration sponsored by the Immigration Committee of the Mt. Carmel Deanery.

"The Humanities of the Immigration Problem" was presented by Miss Agnes G. Regan, executive secretary, N. C. C. W. Miss Regan stressed that Catholic women have the power and ability to restore and retain Christian living and practices by setting the example. "Be a good visitor, be charitable. Continue the work of our late Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, who looked to the lay Catholic women to uphold Christian ideals and Christian practices."

"Technicalities of the Immigration Problem" were outlined by Miss Sarah Weadick, assistant to the director of the Immigration Bureau, N. C. W. C., and consultant on the N. C. C. W. Committee on Immigration. "Let it be a matter of conscience that all members of committees keep records of what has been done and pass them on to their successors. An immigration file is never dead. . . . A good member is a zealous one."

BRIEF NOTES FROM THE FIELD

The thirty-fifth annual retreat of the Christ Child Society was very successful. The first annual retreat of the group was given by the late Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Burke, C.S.P., first general secretary of the N. C. W. C.

Miss Mazie Scanlan, national director of the Junior Catholic Daughters of America, presented an excellent program in the ninth talk in the series of youth broadcasts being given by the N. C. C. W. in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company.

The Daughters of Isabella of Wyoming are leading the drive for decent literature in that State.

The work for the blind being done by the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae deserves commendation. Besides transcribing pages of Braille for the Xavier Free Publication Society and Circulating Library for the Blind, members have solicited annual donations from alumnae associations, circles and chapters. At the time of the I. F. C. A. convention in Cleveland, 66 transcribers produced 48,913 pages of Braille and the Kenwood Alumnae had produced an additional 12,528 pages.

Miss Marion R. Hansbery, national chairman, writes, "Mass books, Manuals and Gospels, for personal use, are often requested by blind Catholics who cannot afford to purchase them." It requires an estimated 20 minutes for the transcription of a page of Braille.

The Xavier Free Publication Society, 136 West 97th St., New York, N. Y., proof reads, shellacks and binds sheets that have been prepared by volunteer transcribers. Here is a worth-while undertaking for those who have free time—helping the blind to know their religion.

Several study clubs have been formed by the new Macon units of the N. C. C. W. in the Savannah-Atlanta Diocese. One group is studying Communism; another, the Mass, with one meeting a month devoted to a question box. The Children of Mary Sodality is also studying the Mass. The Mothers' Club is studying the vestments worn by the priest.



A Splendid Response ...

To our suggestion of last month for the placement of the Encyclicals of the late Pope Pius XI in public and other libraries is being accorded, especially by local units of the N.C.C.M. and N.C.C.W. and by affiliated groups and individuals.

EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENT COOPERATION

FROM AN N. C. C. W. UNIT:

"In response to the suggestion from N. C. C. W. headquarters you will be interested to know that at its March 9 meeting, Tulsa Deanery Council voted to purchase 6 copies of the bound Encyclicals and place them in Catholic and non-Catholic colleges in the Deanery, as memorials to Pope Pius XI."

—From the Corresponding Secretary, Oklahoma Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

FROM AN N. C. C. M. AFFILIATE:

"In response to your circular letter, Crookston Council, Knights of Columbus, has decided to order six sets, one for each of the three Catholic schools here, one for the public library, one for the public schools and one for the Northwest School of Agriculture which is located at Crookston."

—From the Past State Deputy, Crookston Council, K. of C. No. 1216, Crookston, Minn.

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